



Interagency Dispatch Implementation Project (IDIP) Geographic Information System (GIS) Support September 12, 2016

Problem Statement

GIS products are used to make jurisdictional determinations and response plans to support initial attack dispatch and fire operations. Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) software systems rely on accurate geospatial information to provide managers with critical response decision criteria. Dispatch offices frequently experience delays in obtaining timely GIS support and products. This situation impacts response time to initial attack and other incident response.

Key Issues

- Utilizing outdated geospatial products frequently results in inaccurate jurisdictional responses. This impacts the dispatcher's ability to efficiently direct the required resources to an incident.
- Lack of current boundary knowledge leads to incorrect cost recovery/cost sharing with cooperators.
- Lack of updated and integrated GIS products leads to misapplication of fire response tactics (i.e. retardant application in avoidance areas).
- Agency GIS personnel are unable to adequately support all of the existing geospatial applications and products across their local units or are not funded by fire to support local CAD systems.

Steps to Resolution

Long Term - Establish a National Geospatial Data Repository where all fire applications and fire business users (including dispatch) can access geospatial data layers.

- In collaboration with and at the request of the IDIP, the NWCG Geospatial Data and the National Coordination System (NCSC) subcommittees are developing minimum requirements for geospatial datasets including those required by dispatch CAD systems.
- The included document titled "CAD Geospatial Data Clearinghouse" lists the required and suggested datasets to be included in the repository.
- These datasets should be accessible by interagency dispatch centers to download in the appropriate data format for integration into the local CAD system with little to no GIS support.
- As dispatch needs and software capabilities evolve, the repository should be adaptable to meet changing business requirements.
- A pilot project is in progress and being led by the geospatial subcommittee.

Short-Term - Increase the level of GIS support to dispatch centers. Possible options to achieve this are:

- Identify additional GIS personnel to provide pre-season and surge capacity GIS support (suggest force account and/or enterprise team resources).
- Integrate GIS support into the interagency fire application helpdesk workload.
- Encourage local fire management organizations to identify possible funding sources to help ensure local dedicated GIS support.

Benefits to Implementation

- Use of a geospatial data repository will allow units to obtain GIS data more efficiently and effectively. This will result in improved incident response times, reduced risk to responding incident personnel and decreased GIS support personnel needs.
- Updated jurisdictional and protecting unit maps will improve cost recovery and sharing.

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